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RE Soviet Group at the Fifth International Congress of Animal
Reproduction and Artificial Insemination in Trento, Italy,
6 - 13 Sep 1964

Source : S

SR TRAVEL INPUT

Date : 16 Sep 1964

-I-

General

1. The Soviet group had about 20 persons including 3 or 4 female interpreters. The chief of the ^{Source} ~~Delegation~~ ^{* No 701} was Prof MILOVANOV Vñctor Konstanti-
~~novich~~ of the All Union Scientific Research Institute of Animal Husbandry in DUBOVITSY, Moscow -blast. There were in the group 3 Ukrainians, one Lithuanina, one Azerbajdzñanian, one Kalmyk, ^{one Armenian} and the rest - Russians. Ukrainians were additionally represented by ZORIN I.G., Vice-Minister of Agriculture of Ukr SSR. As scholars and specialists they were primarily interested in their specified fields and on the whole gladly discussed respective topics. On the other hand, most of them, were rather reluctant to talk about political moreover controversial ~~and~~ events and developments.

They stuck mostly together, after sessions went directly ^{to} their hotel, and refused to go to private dinners in restaurant or to parties. Some of them like ZORIN, MILOVANOV, ZHEBENKENE (female) and ZVEREVA (female) felt, however, quite at home with foreigners.

Source planned to go with the Soviet group on an excursion to BRESCIA but failed because of interpreters who simply told him that he was not invited to.

After the Congress the Soviet group was supposed to be received in a private audience by Pope in Rome and they were really looking forward to this event.

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2. The satellite delegations were completely independent of Soviets . The relations between the both - were friendly, and there was even an evident respect on the part of Soviets for the selfassurance and independence of their ~~colleagues~~ colleagues from the satellites. Some of satellitex delegates did not go to the party given by the Soviets because they simply did not care to, and preferred to converse with their Western colleagues.

3. No one expressed or indicated a desire to defect except for a Polish lady who decided to stay in the West. According to her Polish colleagues who seemed to be quite unmoved by her decision, this was the only reasonable thing she could do as she was "no good" anyway (as scientist), and nobody wanted her in Poland.

-II-

Topics (Excerpts)

1. The food situation remarkably improved in 1964. There is no longer any crisis. The 1964-harvest was good. The only weak point of food-supply is a badly organized distribution itself.

2. Soviet-Chinese conflict was of great interest to everyone but their knowledge of the subject matter ~~about~~ itself was relatively scarce. A little more they knew about developments in satellite countries . Non-Russians (Ukrainians and Lithuanian) were quite positive in their sympathetic appraisal of those developments. Most outspoken in this respect was a Lithuanian. Non-Russians and some Russians described the concept of amalgamation of nations as impractical at the present and "just a vision for the very far future".

3. Ukrainians confirmed the arson in the Library of the Ukrainian Academy in Kiev , and liquidation of Ukrainian Agricultural Academy in 1963 . The latter was "disestablished" as a rival institution to the Russian Agricultural Academy in, Lenina in Moscow.

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4. Khrushchev was regarded as the least evil available now to all other alternatives.

5. All denied categorically that collective farms would be abolished. Only an increase of initiative on the part of local managements was to be expected.

6. According to Ukrainian delegates everybody in Kiev is for cultural exchange with Western countries but its implementation depends on Moscow. Without Moscow's permission they, in Kiev, are simply helpless. All cultural exchange is concentrated in Moscow and "some people" in the center like to keep things "same way" all the time.

Ukrainian delegates asked to send them books from abroad and promised to reciprocate.

7. All Soviet delegates seemed to enjoy tremendously international congresses and their participation considered to be some sort of special privilege.

8. The next Congress on Animal Reproduction will take place in 1968 in France, and then in 1972 in Moscow.

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Contacts

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1. ZORIN, I.G., Vice-Minister of Agriculture of Ukrainian SSR, Kiev.

Ukrainian, aged approx. 50 (See photograph), has a PhD degree in Agriculture, sociable, selfassured, "a real Minister". He knew about Source from KRIVOSHEEV and other agricultural specialists and officials from Kiev who had visited Source's school in Paris. ZORIN'S attitude to Source was quite friendly and the latter had several occasions to talk with him tete-a-tete, in spite of MILOVANOV'S and particularly of female interpreters' "willingness" usually to join them.

ZORIN spoke all the time Ukrainian, only his two speeches he read in Russian; with somewhat ostensible disregard ^{he}/treated MILOVANOV and other Russians, and used to underline everywhere that he was a Minister of the Ukraine. Both of his speeches entailed factual, to the point material, free of any propagandistic phraseology. They contrasted sharply with MILOVANOV'S speeches which were full of references to "peace", "co-existence", "construction of communism" etc. Zorin's speeches were warmly applauded and much better received by the public than those of Milovanov's.

a/ According to Zorin, the transformation of republican into all-union ministries was applied only to some "secondary ones" in Kiev which were of no particular importance to Ukraine. He felt, however, quite awkwardly when Source asked him about ~~the details~~ details.

On the other hand, Zorin told Source that regrettably in 1963 "The Ukrainian Academy of Agriculture" was liquidated in order to remove a serious competitor of Russian Agricultural Academy im. Lenina in Moscow. He also told Source that there were "some" trends in the center (in Moscow) to unify scientific institutions, and a preference for scientific publications in Russian only.

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b/ According to ZORIN the arson in the Library of Ukrainian Academy in Kiev in May 1964 was performed by a paranoic who hid himself inside the library for a night and "prepared the fire". ZORIN did not want to say of what nationality the incendiary was.

c/ The concept of amalgamation of nations ZORIN described as "a distant song of an even more distant future" as he did not see any concrete prerequisites for its implementation in the near future.

d/ ZORIN "promised" Source that from now on he will make particular efforts to get all scientific agricultural works^{in Ukraine} printed not only in Russian but also in Ukrainian. He thought that "bilingualism" will best serve the purpose. This promise ZORIN made in company of KVASNITSKYI and OSTASHKO when Source reproached them all for letting most books be printed in Russian and not in Ukrainian .

e/ At the Congress ZORIN was included into the Permanent Committee of Congresses as its full fledged member.

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2. MILOVANOV Viktor Konstantinovich, Prof, of All Union Scientific Research Institute of Animal Husbandry in Dubrovitsy, Moscow -oblast. Head of the Soviet Delegation in Trento, Italy. Russian, full member of All Union Academy of Agricultural Sciences, a great biologist and zootechnician, aged 60, Stalin prize bearer. In "Papers of Soviet Scientists for the 5th Int.Congress..." in Trento published in Moscow in 1964, there are two of MILOVANOV'S papers:

" Implementory - novyi klas synteticheskikh sred dla razbavleniya semeni sel'sko-khoziaystvennykh zhyvotnykh" (of 1961) and " Vliyaniye okislitel'no-vostanovitel'nykh potentsialov pri khraneniye semeni na oplodotvoriyemost' i kachestvo potomstva".

a/ According to his Ukrainian colleagues, MILOVANOV has a clear tendency to fill all responsible positions in Ukrainian institutes with Russian and Asian element. In the scientific world there is a deep rivalry between MILOVANOV and KVASNYTSKYI A.V. of Poltava Institute of Pig Breeding, in Ukraine. KVASNYTSKYI - a renown specialist in his field - deliberately publishes his books in Russian in order to countervail MILOVANOV'S tendency to promote everywhere only Russian scientists and his own theories. Even in composing scientific delegations for abroad MILOVANOV is following the line of discrimination against Ukrainians.

Incidentally, MILOVANOV cooled off completely toward Source after he learned that Source was Ukrainian and not Polish as he assumed all the time. They were in correspondence or rather in exchange of books for several years. After MILOVANOV heard that Source was Ukrainian he even refused to go to dinner with him in a restaurant. It was Source's impression that MILOVANOV was a Russian chauvinist who contributed ^{indeed} very much to Russification of Ukrainian Agricultural Institutes.

b/ Together with "interpreters" MILOVANOV seemed to be one of the chief administrators watching the Soviet group ^{and} holding them in line!

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In discussing various topics MILOVANOV stuck as a rule to official party line and even in his public addresses used phraseology. He was very reluctant to be involved in any deeper political discussion. Source's question whether individual departments of Ukrainian Academy were being now liquidated in the course of Kaldyshev Reform, he answered with a rather unconvincing "no".

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3. *SOKOLOVSKAYA I.I., Prof, of All-Union Scientific Research Institute of Animal Husbandry in Dubovitsy, Moscow - oblast. Russian, female, a great scientist, wife of Prof MILOVANOV V.K. At Dubovitsy she usually co-operates with Prof. OSTROVSKYI F.M. Rather reserved, willing to talk on professional subjects but reluctant to discuss politics. Russian chauvinist like her husband.

SOKOLOVSKAYA was in correspondence with Source and they exchanged books. Some of books she sent to Source's private address though he never gave it to her of her husband.

4. ZVEREVA H.V., Prof, of Scientific Research Institute of Agriculture and Cattle Breeding of Western rayons of Ukrainian SSR, Lvov. Russian, female, aged 50-55, Professor at the same Faculty in Lviv which was headed by Source during the war. She knew many of Source's former docents and professors like Prof KIYAK, docent SOBCHUK, Prof GZHYTSKYI. Source gave ZVEREVA some of his treatises to be handed over to his former docents and professors and also one copy of each for ZVEREVA herself. She gladly took them but refused to accept "Panorama ..." by Koshelivets.

ZVEREVA knows Ukrainian beside Russian and some of her books are published in Ukrainian. Her children know beside Russian and Ukrainian also Polish and French. Her lectures in Lviv she reads in Russian. To Lvov she came 20 years ago.

ZVEREVA did not mind discussing scientific stuff but was reluctant to be involved in any political topics.

5. *PLATOV, E.M., candidate of Biological Sciences, of All Union Scientific Institute of Animal Husbandry in Dubrovitsy, Moscow oblast. Russian, very friendly, tolerant on nationalities question, avoided however any deeper political discussion a typical scientist.

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6. KVASNITSKYI Alexei Volodymyrovych, Prof, of Poltava Scientific Research Institute of Pig Breeding, Poltava, Ukr SSR. Ukrainian, aged 55-60, a renown physiologist, full member of All Union and Ukrainian Academies of Sciences. His books are published in Russian and Ukrainian. Speaks very bad Russian. His treatise in "Papers of Soviet Scientists for the 5th International Congress.. " O prichinakh embrionalnoy smertnosti u selsko-khoziaystvennykh zhyvotnykh".

a/ KVASNITSKY is a rival of Prof MILOVANOV in both, scientific and political fields. In addition to disapproving of some of Milovanov's theories, KVASNITSKYI is very strongly opposing MILOVAN'S policy of increasing Russian element in Ukrainian institutes. MILOVANOV literally hates KVASNITSKYI and the latter seems to reciprocate.

b/ According to Source, KVASNYTSKYI is a conscious Ukrainian suffering deeply ~~about~~ the current policy of unification and russification. Publishing of his books in Russian he explained as the only effective means at the present to countervail MILOVANOV'S attempts to exclude Ukrainian scientists from ^{everywhere} all -Union and international forums and to promote his own proteges and theories.

c/ KVASNYTSKYI confirmed the news about the arson in the Library of Ukrainian Academy in Kiev in May 1964 and spoke about it with tears in his eyes. He begged Source not to ask him "too many questions as to details".

7. OSTASHKO F.I., candidate of Biological Sciences, of Scientific Research Institute of Animal Husbandry of Lissostep and Polissia of Ukrainian SSR, Kharkov. Ukrainian, aged 30-35, as a rule uses Russian, a career hunter trying to ingratiate himself with "nachalstvo".

a/ OSTASHKO rejected the idea that there was any real Russification going on in the Ukraine. He admitted, however, that most scientific works were printed in Russian. He pointed out that whereas scientific books in Ukrainian are printed in 2 - 3,000 exemplares, those in Russian have usually 20 - 30,000.

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On the other hand, he complained, he personally had ~~some~~ trouble with printing his book in Russian, too. Halfjokingly he added, that this was probably ZORIN'S responsibility as he was "advised" to publish it in Ukrainian. As a scientist interested above all in his research field, he didn't care in what language he was published; the main point was to be most widely read and known.

b/ According to OSTASHKO lectures at Kharkov Veterinary Faculty are read in Ukrainian and Russian. There were no protests or demonstrations of students against Russian in Kharkov. OSTASHKO knew that some protests of students have taken place in Kiev, Lvov, Poltava, but primarily in Lvov.

c/ When discussing Rumanian and other national tendencies in the satellite countries, OSTASHKO remarked that "Ukrainian communists were no worse than others". He refused to elaborate.

8. ZHEBENKENE B.A. (see picture), candidate of Biological Sciences, of Lithuanian Scientific Research Institute of Animal Husbandry in Baisogala. Lithuanian, female, aged 40-45, openminded, intelligent, outspoken, Lithuanian patriot and a good catholic. With her Russian colleagues she spoke Russian, but - as she told Source - at home and in her office she uses only Lithuanian.

a/ According to ZHEBENKENE there was "no very strong" Russification in Baltic states and that it depended to a great extent on the attitude of local population and particularly of intelligentsia. She knew much about Ukrainian question and did not conceal her sympathy for Ukrainian aspirations. In drawing some comparisons on Russification she pointed out that their main problem in Baltic countries was too massive a Russian influx in the past which had changed to "some extent" the demographic picture of Baltic peoples.

ZHEBENKENE stressed very emphatically that the concept of amalgamation of peoples had no chances to be implemented at the present and in the future and was simply "for birds". Referring to Ukrainians she said that as far as she

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knew c temporary Ukrainians they would never give up to Russians.

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9. BARYSHNIKOV I.A., Prof, of the Institute of Phisiology im. I.P.Pavlova, Leningrad. Russian, an excellent specialist in artificial insemination, a typical scientist, quite ~~socialable~~ sociable; avoided politics.

10. BASHIROV E.B., candidate of Biological Sciences, of Azerbaidzian Scientific Research Institute of Animal Husbandry in Kirovobad. Azrbaidzian of "Tatar origin". Very gay and friendly, reluctant to discuss any politics seriously ^{him} All attempts of Source to involve into political topics parred with jokes and rather silly remarks as though trying to present himself " a little bit crazy".

11. POZDNIAKOV P.M. , candidate of Biological Sciences, of Kazakh Scientific Research Institute of Animal Husbandry in ALMA ATA. Russian, quite friendly, did not mind to talk but avoided political topics. Keenly interested in his specialized field (artificial insemination of sheep) and knew how to re-direct any conversation to this one subject.

12. ASLANYAN M.M., Candidate of Biological Sciences, of Ukrainian Scientific Research Institute of Animal Husbandry of Steppe -rayons im. M.F. Ivanova , in Askanya Nova. Armenian, aged 50-55, for many years in Ukraine , former student of Ukrainian Academician HREBEN. ASLANYAN has great sympathy for everything Ukrainian and Ukraine regards as his "second native land ". Nevertheless, he speak mostly Russian.

a/ According to ASLANYAN, Prof MILOVANOV has already sent many Russians to Askanya Nova and this policy is being continued.

13. MALIKOV D.I. Candidate of Biological Sciences, of All Union Scientific Research Institute of Sheep and Goat Breeding in ST AVROPOL. Kalmyk, aged 30-35, very simple, friendly, a typical peasant boy, expressed great sympathy for Kuban Ukrainians with whom he had much to do. Talks - nothing of interest.

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14. * LOGINOVA N.V., Candidate of Biological Sciences, of All Union Scientific Research Institute of Sheep and Goat Breeding in STAVROPOL. Female, her nationality described as "Soviet" and did not want to specify. Preferred to listen instead to talk, made impression of a somewhat frightened individual.

15. KAZAKOV V.M. of All Union Scientific Research Institute of Sheep and Goat Breeding in STAVROPOL. Russian, male, 30-35, student of Prof Mⁱlovanov and probably his protege . Very reserved, untalkative , his participation in private conversations he usually restricted to "yes" or "no".

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1. ZORIN I.G., Vice-Minister of Agriculture of Ukr SSR
2. ZHEBENKENE B.A.
- 3, 4, and 6 - interpreters, 3 - "for sure KGB"
5. ASLANYAN M.M.